

center. I have long contemplated writing something about this loveliest country I ever saw, but I hesitate always, because I know it is beyond me. It must be seen to be appreciated. But I am constrained to believe that the great future of this great state lies in none of these places, but in this, the San Joaquin valley. It is 300 miles long and has an average width of about 100 miles. At present, its most promising point, as I see it, is in the Turlock irrigation district. The great watering system has just been completed, and 187,000 acres are thus brought into possibilities of great value. All kinds of land are to be found under this system, ranging in price from \$20 to \$40 per acre, owing to location and quality of soil. Here in the very midst of the district is Turlock, and a good, live Brethren church. Good railroad facilities, good markets, and all right in every particular, if one goes in to make it so. The soil will produce almost anything that grows anywhere in the state, and seems especially adapted for alfalfa, peaches, grapes and all kinds of small fruit. Of course one must not expect the soil, climate and water to do it all. With the right amount of energy employed upon it, it will do its full share. So many Brethren come to this coast and settle anywhere as it suits their fancy, regardless of whether there is a church near or not. They grow cold and die spiritually, and their families are also lost to the cause, if not even worse. Don't make such a mistake, if you think of coming west. There is, to say the least about it, no excuse for such a thing, and those who do it, are almost always the losers in the end. I am not agent for any land, and I have no colony matter in hand. I have only written to let you know a good thing, and feel I have done my duty. If any one wants any further information they can write to J. W. Bell, Turlock, Calif., or John Ward, Modesto, or to myself. If you are coming here, come to the church or near it.

Yours in His name.

MARTIN SHIVELY.

Lathrop, Calif.

Announcement

Communion services will be held by the Roann Brethren church Friday evening, May 3. An invitation is extended to the members of the neighboring congregations to meet with us.

WM. H. MILLER.

Zion Hill Church, Ohio

Our regular business meeting was held on April 12. All business presented was disposed of in an agreeable manner, seemingly satisfactory to all present. By unanimous vote all the officers were reelected for another year, including the pastor, who had charge of this church ever since its organization. On Sunday following, after preaching to a good congregation, Sunday school was reorganized. Sister Avilla Kiefer was elected superintendent; Miss Hoff, secretary; sister Ellie Amstutz, organist; D. L. King, chorister; Reuben Steiner, treasurer, who was instructed to procure Brethren Quarterlies.

WM. KIEFER.

Pleasant Home, O.

Mexico, Ind.

Easter Sunday was a strong day for the work here. The Sunday-school, led by brother Peter Fisher, was exceptionally good. The Y. P. S. C. E., led by Sister Leonard, was fine. The missionary offering was sixteen dollars, cash.

Here is a people that is not afraid to give. They delight in it. At their last business meeting they voted to take an offering every quarter for the general board. They will not be ashamed of their record. You say they are able. No more so than many other churches. *They are willing*, while others are not; that's the difference. We are commanded to "lay up treasures in heaven." In heaven these brethren will be enjoying the dollars they have given, while some must content themselves playing with their pennies. How do you

like your record. Had you not better get some of your dollars over there where *you* can enjoy them? You'll get tired rolling pennies forever.

During the meeting there were four who made the "good confession." Two have been received by letter, and on next Sunday three others will be baptized who live near Chili.

We regret to lose such good workers as Brother and Sister Skinner. But some other field will get them and thus be strengthened.

G. W. RENCH.

Philadelphia, Pa.

After a siege of four weeks in Chicago I am now at home resting up for one day. Will begin tonight in Allentown, Pa. As I know many all over the brotherhood desire to know all concerning the Chicago Mission, and inasmuch as I believe they ought to know the facts in order that they may know their duty towards its support, I will give them as nearly as I can.

I believe we have no other mission in the brotherhood like Chicago. It is more like foreign mission work than any place I have yet found. For this reason this work will be necessarily slow. Some of the best workers in the foreign field have worked eight and ten or more years with out a convert; then had hundreds added to the church. One need not be in Chicago long until he will find that the millennium has not yet come.

There is a large number in Chicago who never attend church, and I don't think I would exaggerate if I would say that the majority of church members don't attend church. Perhaps a large majority of those who do attend know absolutely nothing about real salvation. Their young people nearly all attend theaters, dances and other places of the devil. This causes a class of the best people to stay away from church; and you can't get them to go for love or money. I am glad that our mission stands out clearly against all this shallow religion. There is an honest, good, religious class that are disgusted with churches and advocate religion without church organization. Then there is every imaginable fake religion afloat there. All these things make it necessary to teach simple Bible truth.

The streets in Chicago are worse than in any city I have ever been; hence bad weather effects congregations as easily as muddy country roads. For three weeks out of the four we had bad weather. This kept nearly all the women at home, and as they make up three fourths of the congregation, for three weeks we had to do the most of our work from house to house thru the day. The last week we had good weather, except the last night; therefore had good congregations and a gradually increasing interest until the close. We had ten confessions that can be counted upon, four of which were baptized on Saturday night, and six others will be baptized soon. Others confessed, but we can tell nothing about them yet, as they will require much teaching.

We feel that we have done a good work, considering the field. Those who live and work in the country know nothing about city work. I have been in Philadelphia for nearly nine years, and fifteen has been the highest we have ever received here during a revival meeting, and that was more than they ever received at any previous meeting, and we had an organized church to help work up the meetings. Chicago has no organized church back of it and only about forty good members, and some of them can't attend thru the week, and some were sick and others live far away from the mission. This causes the average attendance to be not more than one fourth of the reliable membership.

I want to say also that I found the mission in a better condition than I had expected to find it. There are but few who need milk. Most of them are no longer babes. I found a better class of people there than I expected to find interested in the work, as most missions do so much slum work that only about one in ten holds out. But Brother

Talley is reaching principally the good class of working people, and while he is doing no big work, the work is gradual and permanent. All of you who refuse to support the work in Chicago unless there is constantly additions had as well make up your minds to quit at once as that will never be. If such a thing should happen it would be a mushroom work and they would be lost as fast as received. All solid work done in large cities will come from the children thru the Sunday school. The children will be taught and indoctrinated thru the Sunday school and will become Christians. I know of no more hopeful field than Chicago. And it is the last place that we ought to neglect.

I want to say for the benefit of the brotherhood that I have worked with Brother Talley for almost three months, and two months of that time I have been in his home, and I am convinced that few if any in our brotherhood has sacrificed more for the Brethren church than he has. I also had free access to all the account books of the Mission and was amazed how much of his support came from where he was best known. Milledgeville, where he lived for years and left to take up the Chicago work against the wish of his church, has stood nobly by the work; and Lanark, Falls City, Enon, Waterloo and Hudson have stood nobly by the work. While I was in Chicago most of these congregations sent in contributions for the work. But to my surprise, as I looked over the list of churches, so many that I knew was just as able, had never sent a dollar.

Now, dear brethren, is it right to leave these few churches who know Brother Talley the best to send nearly all the support? Every church in the brotherhood ought to take up at least two offerings annually for the Chicago Mission. A few years ago when Brethren Talley, Gillin, Livengood and myself held three Missionary Conventions in three churches we received over \$600 in those churches in one year for missions. This only shows what can be done if we will. I was amazed at the zeal of these few churches, but again I say, let us all do a little and the work can be easily sustained.

One thing more. We ought by all means have a church house in Chicago, and there is one for sale near the Mission, and it can be bought cheap. Then Chicago, like the Washington Mission, would surely succeed. My earnest prayer is that public sentiment thru the brotherhood will encourage the Mission Board to purchase a church in Chicago and then stand by it as nobly as they did the purchase in Washington.

I. D. BOWMAN.

Elkhart, Ind.

Brighton. Easter was pleasantly spent at Brighton Chapel. We had a fair day and good attendance. Our young people did their part well. Special song services, both morning and evening. One confession in the evening. A noble young man. Offering, \$6.22.

Salem Church. Our attendance here last Sunday was good. In the evening a special program preceded the sermon. The children did excellent and the singing was fine. Our Easter offering amounted to \$4.86.

New Enterprise. At our last meeting here we had a very good attendance altho it was exceedingly muddy, rainy and dark. One accession. A bright young lady. Still they come one by one. This congregation has had many hardships, but God is caring for her and bestowing blessings. They made us a present of a box of eatables. God bless them, they have our sincere thanks for same.

New Paris. Our fifth Sunday of March was spent with this congregation. It was our first visit here. We enjoyed the meeting together. They have been without a pastor since last October, but will soon have one I hope. They have a church of their own, yes, a beautiful church. The S. S. C. E. has made it so. May God ever bless this noble band of workers.

L. O. HUBBARD.